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(01) 8722682 http://www.swp.ie swp@clubi.ie

THE ANTI WAR PAPER—EVERY WEEK €1.00 / £0.70p

inside:

STEVENS REPORT EXPOSES STATE-RUN DEATH SQUADS —PAGE 6

SHOULD WE PANIC OVER SARS? —PAGE 4

■ Murdered: Pat Finucane

IRAQIS DEMAND END THIS OCCUPATION

"SADDAM Hussein's end was a good thing but the British and American invasion was in the interest of Israel".

This is what an Islamic cleric, Ibrahim al Namaa, told people in Mosul last week.

It is a sentiment echoed by millions. The vast majority of the Iraqi people want the occupying armies of the US and Britain to leave.

They see them as a colonial army that treats local people with contempt.

They are angry at an incident in the Baghdad suburb of Zaafaraniya when nearly 40 people died because of an explosion at a US arms dump.

Tamir Kalaal saw fourteen of his relatives, including his father, brother and wife, killed in the incident.

"I am the only one that survived. All I have left is her." he said pointing to his one month old daughter.

"Those Americans did this" he said shaking his finger in anger.

The 3rd Infantry Division of the US army had kept a stockpile of captured weapons only 500 metres from residential homes.

Local people said they begun destroying the weapons and fragments fell on their houses.

Naaman D'Nasser, an engineer who lives in the suburb said, "Why do they blow up things like this so close to where we live? We are Iraqis. But does this not mean we are human as well."

After the deaths, hundreds of Iraqi marched with banners denouncing "The Terror after War" and calling on the US to leave.

At the moment, Islamic movements play a leading role in opposing the US.

But this is not surprising.

The US army has only been interested in grabbing Iraq's oil and has stood aside during the looting of hospitals, schools and museums.

This left a power vacuum which local mosques have started to fill.

The clerics have organised food supplies and discouraged looting. This in turn means that they have become the voice of the opposition.

But there is also a secular opposition to the US occupation and red flags have appeared on a number of demonstrations.

Anti-war activists should support all opposition to the US and British occupation of Iraq. People have a right to fight back under whatever banner they choose.

But the more the protests grow in the West, the more this will assist the secular left to emerge in Iraq and elsewhere.

U.S. PLANS TO RESHAPE THE MIDDLE EAST: PAGES 4/5

Waste disposal: Rich tycoons move in

ENVIRONMENT Minister Martin Cullen is pushing through a Waste Management Bill which will give local authority managers the right to set waste charges—without elected representatives having a say.

His long-term aim is to privatise waste collection throughout the whole country.

Already businessmen are spotting new opportunities.

Take for example, Denis O'Brien. He made a fortune after he was awarded the licence for Ireland's mobile phone network and then sold it on to BT for a staggering £230 million.

Later it was discovered that an associate of O'Brien, Aidan Phelan, had arranged for money controlled by O'Brien to go into an account controlled by the disgraced Fine Gael Minister, Michael Lowry.

Now O'Brien has made his first investment in waste management by buying into SITA Environmental.

Some people are hoping that fortunes can be made from bin charges.

Sutherland company sold nuclear reactors

PETER Sutherland, the former director of the World Trade Organisation, is a great believer in globalisation.

Globalisation, he claimed, in a recent interview brought new wealth to Korea. He should know all about it.

He sat on the board of the giant firm ABB up to 2001. The company sold nuclear reactors to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation.

This was a US sponsored initiative that was making links with both North and South Korea.

The KPEDO was supposed to sell two light nuclear reactors to North Korea.

One of Sutherland's co-directors on the board of ABB was none other than Donald Rumsfeld, the present US Defence Secretary.

It's a secret

SPENDING on the Irish Secret Service has shot up by 85 percent over the previous year.

But when asked for an explanation in the Dail, junior Minister Mary Hanafin replied "It is a secret".

GEORGE GALLOWAY:

Don't trust the press liars

THE *Daily Telegraph* claimed that to have found documents revealing that the British Labour MP, George Galloway, "was in Saddam's pay".

The story has been picked up by the Irish media and used to discredit the anti-war movement.

But the whole war on Iraq was based on blatant lies—and they are still lying today.

Before the war, the press claimed that documents had been found which proved Saddam Hussein had nuclear weapons.

The US weapons inspectors showed they were a crude forgery.

In February the British government produced a "carefully researched dossier" on Iraq.

■ *George Galloway addressing an anti-war rally in London recently*

It turned out to be pasted together from a twelve year old student thesis.

There is every possibility they are lying again.

The *Daily Telegraph* is close to British Intelligence and is owned by Conrad Black who is an admirer of the US war criminal Henry Kissinger.

British Intelligence have long tried to discredit individual figures of the left.

In 1990, the *Daily Mirror* claimed that the miners leader Arthur Scargill received money from Libya.

It was only last year that the Mirror editor admitted the smear campaign was a pack of lies.

The *Daily Telegraph* story did not show that Galloway personally benefited from the Iraqi regime.

But that little detail did not stand in the way of the smear campaign.

CHILDREN HELD IN GUANTANAMO BAY

THREE children aged between thirteen and fifteen are locked up by the US in Guantanamo Bay.

This small enclave in the US controlled sector of Cuba is supposed to house dangerous terrorists.

But the American based Human Rights Watch discovered the three children there.

The US government refuses to accept that any are prisoners of war entitled to the protection of the Geneva convention.

It plans to hold them indefinitely or as Donald Rumsfeld put it "until the war against terrorism is won".

The US complained vigorously about Saddam Hussein treatment of their prisoners—but it has taken on itself the right to lock up "child terrorists" for ever.

Workers resistance in Argentina

TEN THOUSAND demonstrators fought off police attacks on workers from the Brukman tailoring factory in the Argentinian capital, Buenos Aires.

The factory was being run successfully under workers' control after the boss tried to close it down 16 months ago.

"They are afraid of us", said Celia Martinez, one of the 58 mainly women workers, "because we are showing that if we can run a factory we can run the country. This government is determined to get the working class out of the way and so decided to repress us."

A popular revolt overthrew a government which was implementing IMF attacks on living standards and jobs in December 2001. Since then the country's rulers have been trying to restore their power.

Their last attempt to do so, in June, was beaten back by massive demonstrations after they had shot dead three unemployed "piqueteros" activists.

As the presidential election loomed, they decided to have another go at crushing the real opposition.

Brukman workers are asking people to send e-mails and faxes protesting at the repression to the Argentinian embassy.

Messages of support to the Brukman workers will be passed on if sent to masarg@arnet.com.ar

'They murdered our brother in war of rich'

JOSE Couso Permuy was a photographer shot dead by US troops in the Palestine hotel in Baghdad. Here is a statement read out by his brothers David and Javier, and his sister Barbara, at a recent anti-war demonstration in Madrid:

"Don't tell us, as the government does, that our brother died of an "unfortunate accident", that there were snipers and that he knew the risks he was taking.

Don't tell us, as the government does, that his death was exploited by the Iraqi regime, or that his death upsets public opinion and it is necessary to forget it. They MURDERED our brother.

So that there would be no witnesses. So that there would be no voices contradicting the Disney image of "intelligent" bombs, "humanitarian" wars and civilian deaths as "collateral damage".

In these sad days, we say that if they are capable of MURDERING an accredited journalist like our brother, in the middle of Baghdad in the eyes of the whole international community, what are they doing to civilians or those they regard as enemies who get in their way?

> 'In the name of morality they are immoral. In the name of liberty they crush liberty. In the name of life they kill.'

In the name of morality they are immoral. In the name of liberty they crush liberty. In the name of life they kill.

But there are worse. The minions, the accomplices, the yes-men, the camp-followers, the puppets, the buck-passers, the cringers, the well rewarded, who from this government look down on the people and ally themselves with the Empire.

In face of all this there are us, the lions who hold their heads up, THE PEOPLE. We have come out on the streets, with our hands our fists, our cries, our songs, our tears, our wounds, our resistance, our courage.

Today, Jose Couso, our brother, the people are with you, hating the war of the rich and knowing there is only one word to describe Bush, Blair and Aznar: MURDERERS."

MAD DOG ADAIR GOT INTELLIGENCE SECRETS

JOHNNY Mad Dog Adair received a visit from British intelligence officers in Maghaberry Jail last month.

Adair is trying to strike a deal to be transferred to a jail in England as he is worried about the threat of assassination from his former comrades in the UDA.

Adair has close links with British intelligence. He was invited by the most senior British army intelligence officer in Northern Ireland to dinner in the mid-nineties and received a list of military secrets about republican suspects.

The Stevens inquiry uncovered Adair's fingerprints on a dozen military intelligence dossiers.

But it has failed to reveal the full implications of its findings.

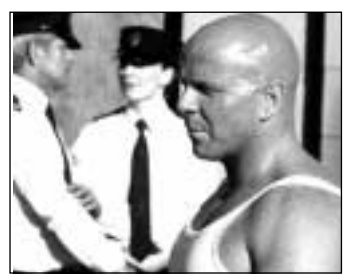
Collusion

Up to now it was thought that the links between British military intelligence and the loyalist death squads was organised by Gordon Kerr, the head of the Force Research Unit.

But *Observer* journalist, Henry McDonald, has used his contacts in the RUC to reveal that the collusion went far higher.

Adair had contacts with the most senior British army intelligence officer in Northern Ireland in the early nineties.

This was the height of the loyalist murder campaign.



■ *Adair: Briefed by British Intelligence*

editorial

Support the Public Health Doctors

HEALTH Minister Michael Martin is trying to scapegoat public health doctors because of his own failure to take SARS seriously.

Martin has targeted a small number of top doctors who, he claims, abandoned their responsibilities to stand on the picket line. But these doctors are right to stand with their colleagues.

Public health is all about tracking down infectious diseases and promoting better health.

At the moment there are about 40 notifiable infectious diseases—including meningitis, SARS, HIV and winter vomiting.

Public health doctors work as medical detectives tracing the source of these diseases, finding people who have been in contact with infected patients, administering vaccines.

Yet the Department of Health does not have an out of hours system for this surveillance. It pays doctors to work from nine to five—but then expects that they will do voluntary unpaid work after this.

Promised

This ridiculous system has been going on since 1994. The Department of Health promised to review the situation two years later—but has done nothing for the past nine years.

So when a doctor is called out to deal with a meningitis outbreak in a school or crèche—there is no provision to pay them if they have to spend the weekend working to curb the outbreak.

The Irish Medical Organisation has calculated that its 300 public health members give about 17,000 additional unpaid hours this way, saving the state an estimated €6 million.

The Brennan Report, which was drawn up under the auspices of the Department of Health, itself recommended an off roster system of payments. But nothing was done.

The real scandal is that public health on Ireland is taken less seriously than the treatment of animal health.

During the foot and mouth epidemic, the Irish government ordered a no holds barred approach to curb the epidemic because they were worried about the profits of the beef industry.

But when it comes to public health it is a different matter. Medicine in Ireland is mainly organised on a private basis and General Practitioners are encouraged to see themselves running little private businesses.

Defeated

Attempts to create a free public health system through the Mother and Child scheme in 1952 were defeated by the Church hierarchy and the elite of the medical profession at the time.

Ever since then preventative medicine and public health are treated like the Cinderella area of Irish medicine.

This is why the overwhelmingly female profession—80 percent of public heath doctors are women—have been treated in a discriminatory way.

Everyone who stands for elementary trade union rights should support the public health doctors.

But socialists will also see this dispute as part of a fight to put the needs of people before profit and business.

Issues for Anti Capitalists

A stronger Europe?

by JOE CAROLAN

GLOBALISE Resistance recently hosted a public meeting in Liberty Hall, where Christopher Aguitton from the Evian Anti-G8 Organising Committee spoke of the plans to put Blair, Bush and the rest of the G8 under siege in France this Summer.

Hundreds of thousands are expected to join the protest this June, as the ranks of the anti capitalist movement are swelled by newly radicalised anti war activists.

However, within the movement there are disagreements over what we need to replace the system with.

Des Geraghty from SIPTU argued at the GR meeting that it was vital that the trade unions be central to the anti globalisation movement. Here we agree. Workers in Spain, Greece and Italy have become radicalised by the anti capitalist movement, and its energy has spilled into several recent General Strikes.

But he went on to argue that there is a need to build up new EU institutions to act as a counter balance to US imperialism. He asked those who had voted against the Nice Referendum to re-consider. Surely recent events, he said, proved the need for a "strong" European led "progressive" alternative.

It is an argument that is echoed by the British writer George Monbiot who said that the anti-capitalist movement should support the euro—as a counter weight to the US dollar.

Many Social Democrats throughout Europe are also arguing that we need a "strong" Europe, which will then be able to impose more enlightened policies as regards Palestine, the Middle East, Debt Reduction and aid than its Anglo-American rivals.

But there is nothing inherently "progressive" about Europe. Its key members states pursue imperialist policies that are similar to those of the US.

Take France, for example, the country most identified with opposition to the US led war against Iraq.

In 1994, it helped to arm Hutu militias in Rwanda and was directly implicated in the terrible genocide against Tutsis.

More recently, it effectively supported a coup in Congo against the Lissouba government. The new dictator, Sassou Nguesso, rewarded French companies with new contracts.

France also sent 2,500 troops to the Ivory Coast under the pretext of a "humanitarian mission". Its real aim was to force the Gbabbo government to allow rebel forces to take up some ministries and so bind them both to French influence.

Just like the US, France meddles in poorer countries to secure contracts for its big multi-nationals. And although "progressive" Europe was the birthplace of the Renaissance, the French Revolution and the Russian Revolution, "strong" Europe was the birthplace of Fascism, the Holocaust and Imperialism.

Danger

The danger in arguing for a "strong" Europe is that it can be used to strengthen the case for a European army.

Socialists campaigned against Nice precisely because it legitimated the creation of an EU Rapid Reaction Force which was designed to fight wars outside Europe. Jacques Delores, former EU Commissioner, argued that Europe would need such an army to fight "the resource wars of the 21st Century".

These are the wars now being fought by the US and the UK. Effective opposition to US led wars is not about to creating a European mirror image. European imperialism is weaker militarily than US imperialism. So it tries to make gains through the use of more "diplomatic" methods.

However, anti-capitalists should not confuse this strategy with any notion that the EU represents a kinder, more gentler from of society.

Before the WW1, German imperialism appeared to advocate more "progressive" policies when it called for "open seas" rather than domination by the British navy.

But socialists like Rosa Luxemburg or Karl Liebknecht never dreamed of backing their more "progressive" imperialism as a counterweight to the British empire.

They looked to mass workers action as an alternative to either brand of imperialism.

Today it is not the rivalries between different superpowers which offers hope—but the global anti-capitalist movement that fights all forms of corporate domination.

In Evian, we'll oppose both Anglo-American AND European militarism and imperialism. Or to modernise the old International Socialist slogan—Neither Boston nor Berlin but anti-capitalism.

EVIAN:

Protest at the G8 meeting

FROM 1 June to the 4 June the G8—the leaders of the eights richest nations in the world—have planned a meeting at Evian, a remote French town tucked up high in the mountains.

Ever since Seattle, the authority of these eight nations to act as an unelected world government has been undermined by mass protest. Once again the global anti-capitalist movement is mobilising.

Although the conference centre itself is small and has a difficult access, the G8 will be bringing some 10,000 officials scattered across 30km around the centre.

These officials are going to find it difficult to attend the conference, as protest organisers are expecting hundreds of thousands of people to turn out and provide "festive, good-humoured but determined insubordination."

Forums

There will be at least one anti-capitalist village created during the week, a counter-summit is being organised by NGO's with a huge number of topical forums.

On one of the nights of protest, bonfires and torches will be lit all around the lake.

On Sunday 1st June an attempt to blockade the roads to the centre will take place, and organisers are asking bicyclists to arrive in their tens of thousands to form a mobile contingent.

The protests look set to continue the tradition of imaginative and effective opposition to the attempt of a small elite to create world policies that follow the wishes of the major global corporations.

■ ***Globalise Resistance are organising coaches from Ireland, departing 8am Wednesday 28th May (arriving midday Tuesday) and 8am Friday 30th May (arriving midday Saturday).***

■ ***The coaches will be returning on the Monday. For more information contact Rory 086-1523542 or Joe 087-9032281.***

ANTI IMPERIALISM
a guide for the movement
edited by Farah Reza, with an introduction by Tariq Ali.
The issues, the regions and the players explored in words and images by activists and writers including Tony Benn on the new imperialism, Louise Christian on civil liberties and war, George Galloway on Palestine, George Monbiot on the World Bank and the IMF and Jonathan Neale on Afghanistan. €15 plus €2 p&p from SW Books, PO Box 1648 Dublin 8

The Eamonn McCann column

Hazards of predicting the future

MANY commentators have made fools of themselves with confident predictions of how things in the North would develop.

Few have been so wide of the mark as Kevin Myers, who announced in *Magill* 25 years ago that the war was over and the Provos had lost.

Experiences of that sort have taught practically everybody in the punditry business to hedge their bets when forecasting the future turn of events.

Nevertheless, there's a few things we can be reasonably sure of.

One is that Tony Blair is talking through his anterior orifice when he claims that "political stability is within our grasp."

Blair's comment came at Downing Street when he posed his now-famous three questions to the Provos.

If the IRA would cease all activity and say the conflict was finished, Blair maintained, the Assembly would be reformed after elections and a stable, power-sharing Executive would more or less automatically follow.

But even if everything works as Blair envisages, there is no reason to believe that stability will have been achieved.

The relative strength of the SDLP and Sinn Fein on the Nationalist side and of the UUP and DUP on the Unionist side may shift a little. Or even a lot.

What won't change is that each of the major parties will strive to represent the interests of one community vis-à-vis the other. And each community's representatives will have a veto over decisions seen as impacting unfairly on one side or the other.

What this will give rise to isn't stability but an inherently unstable sectarian balance

Pro-Agreement Unionists see the deal as a final settlement, leaving the North within the UK, and will resist giving real credibility to the cross-border bodies.

The Nationalists, and particularly Sinn Fein, see the Agreement as a transitional arrangement and will make a show of shifting power to the all-Ireland institutions.

Prospect

Attitudes to policing, justice, emblems etc. will reflect these contradictory perspectives.

What's in prospect is long-term instability and a continuing high level of sectarian consciousness, inevitably expressed in sporadic violence.

This is all the more likely given the certainty that a majority of Unionists elected will not be pro-Agreement anyway.

Even if the DUP doesn't pass out the UUP, the group around Jeffrey Donaldson and David Burnside will tip the balance on the Unionist side decisively towards the anti-Agreement camp.

And the anti-Agreement Unionists, for the most part, are driven by sectarian bitterness.

Sectarian blindness is one of the reasons Paisley, Donaldson etc. find it impossible to acknowledge that the Agreement is closer to their own political viewpoint than to the Republicans'.

The dynamic towards a united Ireland which both Sinn Fein leaders and anti-Agreement Unionists claim to see in the text is difficult for anybody else to discern.

No amount of semantics can hide the fact that in operating the Agreement, playing a full part in Assembly committees, the Executive etc., Sinn Fein will be giving credibility to a Six County arrangement—to partition.

The more they work the Agreement the more deeply-rooted partitionist institutions will become.

So what's in prospect is a continuation of a regional government within the UK, built along sectarian lines and implementing centre-right economic policies.

Sinn Fein leaders tend to be very irritable about this characterisation of the politics which they espoused in office.

But how else should we define, for example, the raft of privatisation schemes in health and education, the hostility to term-time school workers when they struck for decent conditions, the refusal to make any move on abortion rights, etc?

It's notable even now that Sinn Fein refuses to commit itself to blocking the introduction of water charges by an incoming administration.

Instability, sectarianism and anti-working class politics are what's on offer. The case for a serious socialist intervention is clear.

The question is, how many of those in the North who call themselves socialist are serious?

AS THOUSANDS OF IRAQIS FIGHT BRUTAL OCCUPATION

US plans to dominate the whole region

by KEVIN WINGFIELD

THOUSANDS of Iraqis have been protesting about the US occupation. Two weeks ago 20,000 people left Baghdad's Abi Hanefah Nouman mosque.

They marched through the streets waving Korans and carrying banners in Arabic and English reading "Leave Our Country—We want Peace".

One of the reasons is that ordinary Iraqis are still being killed by an occupying army.

Scores of Iraqis died after US troops stored captured weapons in a residential neighbourhood.

In one incident the week before, three people were shot dead in the vicinity of an armed robbery. They were not connected with the robbery at all.

"Unfortunately we killed the good guys" said Lieutenant Patrick Spencer of the Marines 13/4 company. "We found that out later, when we checked the bodies."

Despite all the talk about democracy The US/UK occupying forces are setting up a puppet government in Iraq.

Chief among their favourites is the convicted fraudster Ahmad Chalabi of the Iraqi National Congress.

US troops chauffeured Chalabi into the capital city, where he set up his headquarters in a social club formerly frequented by Saddam's sons.

Many associated with Saddam Hussein's Ba'athist regime are also being promoted.

In Basra, the British appointed Sheik Muzahim Mustafa Kanan Tameemi to run the city. He was a brigadier general in Saddam's military and a former Ba'ath Party member.

In the northern city of Mosul the US installed Mishaan al-Juburi as the new mayor. He is a former Republican Guard general who fled the country after he was accused of corruption.

When al-Juburi attempted to give a public speech exhorting Mosul residents to support US troops, the crowd called him a liar and pelted him with stones. U.S. troops then opened fired on the crowd, killing at least 15 people and injuring more than 60.

■ *Occupying US troops pushing Iraqis around*

Bases of the Empire

LAST week the Pentagon let it be known that the US will establish four permanent military bases in Iraq.

Over the past two years the US has dramatically increased the number and spread of its military bases throughout the world.

They now stretch from the Balkans to the Chinese border, taking in the Caucasus, central Asia, the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent.

US troops are stationed in up to 140 countries with permanent bases in half of these.

Following the US led NATO war in Kosovo in 1999, the US established a strong military presence in that country.

After last year's war in Afghanistan, they now hold thirteen bases in nine countries in the former Russian central Asian republics that ring the country.

During the assault on Iraq US forces used Romanian and Bulgarian air bases.

RESHAPING THE MIDDLE EAST

The US project is far more ambitious than just who governs Iraq—it is about reshaping the whole Middle East.

Testifying before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee in February, Colin Powell said the overthrowing the Iraqi government could reshape the Middle East in ways that enhance US interests.

The outlines of that project are now becoming clear.

Secure

The pro-US government in Iraq is set to establish close relations with Israel. Bush wants to secure the position of Israel as the strongest regional power in the Middle East so that the US can dominate the whole area.

As part of this strategy, the US has stepped up pressure on Iran and Syria.

Laughably, Colin Powell has demanded that Iran end "outside interference in Iraq" accusing it of fomenting the Shia protests against the US.

The US administration has condemned Iran's nuclear programme—which Tehran insists is for peaceful purposes—and attacked Iran's "continued support for Hizbullah".

Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, told Congress, "The Syrians are behaving badly.

"They need to be reminded of that, and if they continue, then we need to think about what our policy is with respect to a country that harbours terrorists or harbours war criminals, or was in recent times shipping things to Iraq."

The US has threatened to impose diplomatic and economic sanctions against Syria if President Assad continued to defy its will.

The threats are designed to shut down Syrian support for the Hizbullah guerrilla movement.

They forced Israel to abandon its occupation of Lebanon after twenty years.

Defeat

The other element of the US strategy is to defeat the Palestinian intifada. They want to get some of the Palestinian security forces to collude with Israel and the CIA.

The PLO president Yasser Arafat has been sidelined under US pressure and a more pliable Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas has been promoted as prime minister.

The aim of all of this is to pave the way for a new sell-out "settlement".

The Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon favours the forced deportation of huge numbers of Palestinians to Jordan.

But the declared US policy is to create a pliant Palestinian state that is politically, militarily and economically entirely dependent on Israel.

The Zionist link

KEY members of the Bush administration have close relations with the Sharon government in Israel.

Vice President Dick Cheney; Undersecretary of State John Bolton and Undersecretary of Defence Douglas Feith, Donald Rumsfeld and his deputy Paul Wolfowitz have long associations with right wing think tanks like the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA).

They are also part of the Project for a New American Century (PNAC), established in 1997 and chaired by William Kristol, editor of the *Weekly Standard*. Both these institutions are closely allied with the Israeli Likud Party of Ariel Sharon.

Seven years ago, Perle, Feith and John Bolton's mouthpiece, David Wurmser sought to make common cause with the Likud Party for a war against Iraq.

Perle presented a position paper prepared in consultation with Feith, Bolton, Wurmser and others to newly elected Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

This proposed that Israel repudiate the Oslo accords and seek permanent annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

It went on to urge Israel to support Jordan in advocating a restoration of the Hashemite monarchy in Iraq and the elimination of the regime of Saddam Hussein—"an important Israeli strategic objective in its own right."

A new pipeline

RESHAPING the Middle East also involves control over oil supplies.

Last week it emerged that plans are being drawn up to build a pipeline to siphon oil from Iraq to Israel.

Negotiations have already begun between America, Israel and Jordan.

This will link the northern Iraqi oilfields of Mosul—now occupied by US troops—with Israel and deliver oil at much lower cost. At the moment Israel buys most of its oil at higher prices from Russia.

An alternative oil pipeline through Syria was shut down by the US military on orders of Donald Rumsfeld a few weeks ago.

The new planned pipeline will secure an abundant supply of cheap Iraqi oil for the US and help marginalise Saudi Arabia. This would further weaken OPEC, the organisation of oil producers.

A similar pipeline idea was promoted by US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in the 1970s and current US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld advocated the plan in the 1980s.

US construction company Bechtel—which has just been awarded the contract to rebuild Iraq—was then slated to build the pipeline.

With continuously growing consumption of energy, the US is set to import two thirds of its oil within the next twenty years.

Former US ambassador to the Saudi Arabia, James Akins was quoted in the London *Observer* last week saying, "After all, this is a new world order now. This is what things look like particularly if we wipe out Syria. It just goes to show that it is all about oil, for the United States and its ally."

Should we panic over SARS?

by CONOR KOSTICK

■ *Protective masks at a Korean fashion parade*

HUMAN beings are periodically subject to outbreaks of new illnesses. Sometimes these sicknesses can take hold as sweeping epidemics with devastating consequences.

In medieval times there were regular outbreaks of the plague, St. Anthony's Fire, killing an estimated one in four in parts of Northern Europe in 1094, and the Black Death (bubonic plague) up to one in three people in 1347-1350.

More recent deadly illnesses faced by humanity include AIDS and the Ebola virus.

The latest sickness to start to spread among us, with lethal consequences, is Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome—SARS.

SARS is a variant of the coronavirus, the family of viruses responsible for the common cold. After ten days or so of incubating the illness, the carrier will experience a high fever, dry cough and such trouble breathing that they may die.

As of 23 April, according to the World Health Organisation, 4,288 people had caught the virus, and 251 deaths had resulted.

Are we witnessing the start of another great epidemic?

Theoretically humanity should have emancipated itself from the risk of these epidemics. The powerful research tools that exist and the depth of scientific knowledge means that it should be possible to bring such outbreaks swiftly under control.

The bubonic plague, for example, is no longer a threat to people, except insofar as researchers into biological weapons (especially in the US) keep it alive.

But there are a number of structural features of the world economic system that makes the SARS threat an ominous one.

The virus began in the Guandong province of China. This is a city in the throes of a huge industrial revolution.

Millions are forced to live in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions. Sewerage and public health measures are often non-existent.

The priority put on commercial interests has also undermined an honest assessment of the spread of the illness. Fearful of lost revenues countries, most especially China, have been underreporting the number of cases.

Countries have also been slow to assign resources to dealing with SARS. The resources required are not just with regard to hospital beds and trained staff, the real task of preventing SARS from becoming an epidemic is an administrative one. Carriers have to be isolated and people they have contacted quarantined for three weeks to ensure that they are not incubating the virus.

In this regard, Ireland is particularly irresponsible as the government is refusing to meet the demands of the public health doctors at a time when their services are indispensable.

It is quite astonishing that when someone recently arrived from China came to St. Vincent's Hospital in Dublin, concerned they might have SARS, they were sent home for four days.

The Foot and Mouth disease in animals was taken far more seriously because it threatened the profits of the agriculture sector.

But there is also a more fundamental problem that works against the containment of SARS.

Many people, especially in poorer parts of the world, cannot afford three weeks of isolation. Nor do they want to provide personal details of their lives to repressive states. So despite the fact that, unknown, they might be carrying the virus, they slip the net of quarantine.

An additional problem is that the intellectual activity that is taking place in the search to identify and cure the virus is shaped by the market. It is not a shared project for the sake of the whole of the planet's population. Instead private companies are racing to secure prime position in the marketplace.

Prodesse Inc., from Milwauke, US, SRL Ranbaxy in India and Artus GmbH, Hamburg, Germany have all announced tests.

Artus made a great deal out of the fact they were giving away a certain number for free—but then undermined the gesture when the marketing director added that they "may seek financial gain from the test at a future date".

In other words once they've established themselves as the market leader, then they will cash in on their groundwork.

The true danger posed by SARS is therefore difficult to assess. But if a fraction of the resources uses in the war against Iraq, were devoted to fighting it it should be possible to bring the outbreak under control relatively quickly.

STEVENS REPORT EXPOSES:

STATE RUN DEATH SQUADS

by GORETTI HORGAN

OVER the last thirty years, human rights groups who raised the question of collusion between the security forces and loyalist paramilitaries were called "paranoid".

Now the most senior police officer in Britain, Chief Constable of the Met., John Stevens, has confirmed that there is evidence that collusion was "rife".

He has sent files on 20 members of the British army and RUC to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Five leading human rights organisations—Amnesty International, British Irish Rights Watch, the Committee on the Administration of Justice, Human Rights Watch and the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights—issued a joint response to the Stevens' report.

They said: "The evidence of collusion and subsequent cover-ups in the case implicates at least three intelligence agencies: the Special Branch of the former Royal Ulster Constabulary, whose members have been assimilated into the current Police Service of Northern Ireland; the British Army's secret intelligence unit known as the Force Research Unit; and MI5, the UK's secret service."

The Force Research Unit

The Force Research Unit was a led by Colonel Gordon Kerr who was its commanding officer.

He recruited Brian Nelson to the Force Research Unit in 1987. Nelson was the army agent who passed names, addresses and photographs to Loyalist murder gangs, including the one that killed solicitor Pat Finucane.

At Nelson's trial in 1992, Kerr told the court again and again that Nelson's was "loyal to the Army and not to the UDA". Kerr reiterated that Nelson was not working for the money or the power but "he wished to help the army in its attempts to counter terrorism and to save life."

■ *Parnell Street Dublin, 1974; top of page Pat Finucane and underneath Brian Nelson*

The British establishment rewarded Kerr. He was promoted to Brigadier and was until recently the British army's military attache in Beijing in China.

He is now rumoured to be involved in intelligence work in occupied Iraq, as befits one of the most powerful men in British military intelligence.

During the trial of Brian Nelson, details emerged of the involvement of the Force Research Unit, (FRU) in other loyalist murders.

These included the murders of Belfast men Terence McDaid in May 1988 and Gerard Slane in September that same year. Following the trial the widows of the two men sued the Ministry of Defence because of the involvement of the Force Research Unit in the killings and received a five figure sum in an out-of-court settlement.

Further details have since emerged implicating FRU in other loyalist murders including the deaths of Patrick Hamill and Francisco Notorantonio

Nick Davies, author of a book on the Force Research Unit, *Ten Thirty Three,* claims that the FRU secured "restriction orders"—meaning regular British Army/RUC patrols would avoid a particular area at a specified time—in advance of a number of loyalist attacks.

Collusion at the top

The British state's collusion with Loyalist killer gangs, and the cover-up, was not just by a few rogue army and police officers. It went right to the top.

In *Ten Thirty Three,* Davies claims that Brian Nelson's activities were regularly discussed at London meetings of the Joint Intelligence Committee. This was chaired by Tory prime minister Margaret Thatcher.

At Nelson's trial FRU commander Colonel Gordon Kerr admitted, "I myself gave monthly briefings to General Officer Commanding, to the Chief of Land Forces, to the director and coordinator of intelligence and his senior security service officers.

"And it would be quite normal for Brian Nelson's case and his information to be referred to in these monthly briefings…it would have been the Special Branch responsibility to inform the Chief Constable, for instance there was information relating to leaks of information from the security forces to the loyalist paramilitaries and I know that that was brought to the attention of the Chief Constable.

"At the same time there was information produced that referred to possible loyalist attacks in the Republic of Ireland and Special Branch would have been responsible for disseminating that further to Dublin….

"In other words Brian Nelson's product and his reporting was passed through the intelligence community at a very high level, and from that point of view he has to be considered a very important agent."

Gardai Part of the Problem

Seamus Ludlow, a 47 year old forestry worker from near Dundalk, was found murdered in May 1976 just inside the border in the South.

At the time the family was informed by the Gardai, the police in the Republic, that Seamus had been shot dead by the IRA on suspicion of being an informer.

It is now known the Gardai and the RUC were aware of loyalist involvement in the murder but covered up this fact since one of those under suspicion was an "intelligence asset", working for the security forces as an informer.

The Ludlow family say Garda Special Branch and detectives in the Dundalk area mounted a smear campaign against the family in 1976.

Within three or four weeks of the killing the Garda inquiry suddenly stopped. A sympathetic local Garda told the Ludlow's 20 years later that he believed orders to halt things had come from Dublin.

Collusion widespread and continuing

The Pat Finucane Centre (PFC), a human rights organisation based in Derry, has clear evidence that collusion went far beyond the Finucane and other FRU-related murders.

In all, the PFC claims that in South Armagh alone, loyalist murder gangs, working hand in hand with members of the RUC and UDR were responsible for at least 32 attacks, involving 87 killings.

This claim is based on information received from a Chief Superintendent in the RUC who was the investigating officer following the attack on Donnelly's Bar in Silverbridge Co. Armagh in 1975, which left three men dead.

This Chief Superintendent spoke to the PFC after the families of the men asked them to investigate whether collusion had played a part in these murders.

This high-ranking RUC officer stated that the perpetrators included one RUC Reservist and two UDR men, and the rest were Loyalist paramilitaries from the Portadown area.

He also suggested the same gang were responsible for the Dublin-Monaghan bombing, as well as murders in Kay's Tavern in Dundalk, the murder of two GAA supporters at Tullyvallen, and other murders, including those of the Reavey brothers and of Seamus Ludlow.

A number of the murders occurred at bogus UDR checkpoints.

These included: James and Gertrude Devlin; the Miami Showband; Gilford minibus ambush; and the two GAA supporters at Tullyvallen.

The chief constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Hugh Orde, says there is no collusion within the "new" police force.

Yet just last month, Mark Langhammer told this paper about ongoing collusion. Langhammer, the Independent Labour Councillor who represents working class Protestants in Rathcoole, says that senior police officers have told him they have been told by the Northern Ireland office to turn a blind eye to loyalist activities.

Songs that rage at racism

Nina Simone, who died last week, always claimed her music was as a political weapon to defend the rights of US blacks and third world people.

He music brimmed with anger and sadness at the racism of US society.

One of her strongest songs is Mississippi Goddamn. It was written after the Ku Klux Klan had murdered a group of black school girls and she spits hatred and rage from every note for a society that creates such murderous injustice.

She responded to the murder of Martin Luther King with the song Why? The King of Love is Dead.

All her life she suffered from and fought racism.

Her classical piano training was cut short when she was refused admission to a musical academy because of her race.

Her smash hit My Baby Just Cares for Me, revived in an advertising campaign, gained her only a small portion of the royalties after she was ripped off by the music industry.

Simone's music was not simply propagandism. Her huge musical talent blended jazz and blues with the cadences of Bach.

Perhaps the best example of that is her astonishing version of Duke Ellington's Mood Indigo.

Her songs also have a keen feminist edge and speak of the pain of oppression and loneliness.

Songs like The Other Woman and Peggy Lee's Don't Smoke in Bed express the bleakness of personal hurt in a way few could match.

■ *Nina Simone: High Priestess of Soul*

She even managed to turn the banal self-pitying Bee Gees' To Love Somebody into something special which gave her a hit in 1968.

Seldom achieving huge commercial success she nevertheless influenced a whole generation of younger white rock musicians in the sixties.

Alan Price, at one time of the Animals, scored a hit with I Put a Spell on You but failed to produce the power of Simone's original.

Her song Young, Gifted and Black, popularised by others, became an anthem of black pride.

Defiance

Simone's defiance gained her the reputation in the industry of being "difficult" and sickened by US racism, which she said in 1998 was worse than ever, she left the States and eventually settled in France like so many black American musicians before her.

Lots of her recordings are available in cut price compilations. If you haven't heard much of her music before, check it out.

—KEVIN WINGFIELD

film

Delight over Dead Bodies

DEAD BODIES, a film about lust, deceit, corruption and murder in Dublin, is also sheer delight.

The script is funny, fast and furious with ingenious touches that stay in the mind long after the credits roll to the superb voice of Eartha Kitt.

There are lying politicians, corrupt Guards, scheming women and, as the film says, layers of darkness.

A guy comes home to find that the girlfriend he'd pushed aside as she'd been smashing his CDs, had hit her head and died. While digging a hole to get rid of the corpse he finds another body.

The characters are drawn with swift but subtle strokes. The acting couldn't be better and the plot will keep you on the edge of your seat until the final frame.

It was only on the way out of the cinema that I realised the significance of the lizard, sorry, bearded dragon.

And if you also catch the brilliant *No, No, No*, the short showing with it at Dublin's Savoy, you're in for a real treat.

—THERESA URBAINCZYCK

OUT NOW
INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM 98
The anti-capitalist movement and the war—*Sam Ashman*
Crisis, revolt and the left in Argentina and Brazil—*Mike Gonzalez, Robert Saenz and Isidoro Cruz Bernal*
€5 plus €1 postage from SW Books, PO Box 1648 Dublin 8

Marxist Forums

Big ideas discussed in informal settings

Ballyfermot:
The anti capitalist manifesto 8pm Thurs 22 May, Ruby Finnigan's Pub, Ballyfermot

Ballymun:
The future Socialist Society 7.30pm Thursday May 8th Axis Centre

Belfast South:
A World Without Hunger and War Wed May 14th 7.30 Peter Froggat Centre

Belfast Ormeau Rd:
Will Kurdistan ever be Free? Thurs May 1st Somewhere Different Café

Belfast West:
Will the US bring democracy to Middle East? Wed May 7th 7.30 Culturlann

Bray:
Islam and Imperialism Sat 17 May, 2pm Lenehan's Pub, Main St, Bray

Clondalkin:
EU or US: Which is more progressive? 8pm Mon 24 May The Oak field Lodge Hotel

Cork:
Berlin or Washington - Is the EU more progressive? Wed 7 May 8pm An Spailpin Fanach

Derry Central:
Can The Agreement Survive? 8pm Thur 1 May Foyle Friend Gt James St.

Derry Northlands:
Can the Agreement Survive? Tues 6 May 8pm Phone 07771 781958

Drogheda:
Contact 087-9827413 for more details on SWP activities in the Drogheda area

Dublin South City:
Islam and Imperialism 7pm Wed 21 May, The Beanery Cafe, Burgh Quay.

Dundalk:
4pm every Saturday Spirit Store.

Dun Laoghaire:
Islam and Imperialism. 8pm Wed 21 May Farrell's Pub, Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire

Galway:
Can Kurdistan be Free Wednesday 7 May 8pm Javas Coffee House, Abbeygate St

Liberties:
Islam and Imperialism 8pm Wed 21 May, Viking Lodge, Francis St. phone 0879584221

Rathmines:
Islam and Imperialism 8pm Wed 21 May, Grace's Pub, Rathmines.

Rialto:
Islam and Imperialism 8pm Wed 21 May, St Andrews Resource Centre, SCR.

Tallaght:
Islam and Imperialism 8pm Wed 21 May, Tallaght Welfare Society, Tallaght Village

Tralee:
Berlin or Washington - Is the EU more progressive? Tues 6 May 8pm Cumann Iosaif Community Centre

Waterford:
Palestine - the Roadmap to Nowhere Wed 7 May 8pm Old Rogue Pub, Michael Streett

■ For details of other Marxist Forums contact (01) 872 2682

Waterford SWP
MAY DAY SOCIAL
Thursday 1st May
9.00pm
Tap Room, Ballybricken
Cassidy Trio
Aidan O'Halloran

Irish Anti War Movement
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Sessions: **End the Occupation of Iraq—Resisting the US Empire;**
Workshops: **Globalisation and War: How do we challenge US imperialism; Irish Neutrality and the New World Order; War and the media**
Plenary: **Irish Anti War Movement: Assessment and Where to now?**

Wednesday 10th May 11pm, Liberty Hall Dublin
For info contact IAWM on 087 6329511

OTHER EVENTS:

WATERFORD:
Globalise Resistance Public Meeting
"The G8, Evian and the Fight Back Against Capitalism"
ATGWU Union Hall Keyser Street
Tuesday 6th May, 8.00pm, Speaker: Rory Hearne, Globalise Resistance

Waterford Council of Trade Unions May Day Celebration
'People and Planet, No to War'
Kings Bar, Lombard Street Sunday May 3rd 4.00pm

CLONMEL:
The Clonmel Anti-War Campaign
Peace rally
Friday May 2nd Market Square @ 8.30.
Fundraising Event for Drogheda anti-war group

WHERE WE STAND

Capitalism is wrecking the lives of millions and endangering the planet. A new society can only be constructed when the workers take control of the wealth and plan its production and distribution for human need and not profit.

REVOLUTION
The present system cannot be patched up or reformed. The courts, the army and police exist to defend the interests of the wealthy. To destroy capitalism, we need to remove the present state structures and create a workers' state based much greater political and economic democracy.

AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND WAR
War is a constant feature of capitalism today as the imperialist powers try to dominate the earth. Bush's "War on Terrorism" is a crude device to attack any country which threatens US military, strategic or economic dominance.

END RACISM AND OPPRESSION
We oppose all forms of oppression and racism. This divides and weakens the working class. We are for full social, economic and political equality for women. We oppose immigration controls which are always racist.

FOR WORKERS' UNITY IN THE NORTH
We stand for workers unity against the Assembly politicians and Blair government. Like great socialist James Connolly, we believe that partition has brought about a 'carnival of reaction' We want to see an Irish workers republic where all workers gain. Our flag is neither green nor orange but red!

FOR A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY
To win socialism socialists need to organise in a revolutionary party. This party needs to argue against right-wing ideas and for overthrowing the system. We call for co- operation between left-wing parties and the formation of a strong socialist bloc. We stand for fighting trade unions and for independent rank and file action.

SWP ACTIVISTS ARE ORGANISED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS

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Dublin Bus to strike against privatisation

DUBLIN busworkers have balloted for strike action to stop privatisation. They want to stop Transport Minister, Seamus Brennan, handing over the bus service to multi-nationals.

Last year Dublin Bus made a profit of €3.4 million. This was the result of the huge efforts of the ***staff***.

The bus service was traditionally run down by various governments, particularly during the Haughey years of the late eighties.

At one point the state subsidy for Dublin Bus was cut from an annual subvention of £24 million to a miserly £5.6 million.

The result as that in 1995 Dublin Bus came close to all-out bankruptcy.

Since then state policy has changed and after 1999, the annual subvention grew massively.

The government figured that it was in the wider interests of Irish capitalism to have more buses on the streets to get people to and from work.

Dublin Bus workers also agreed to major efficiency changes – giving seven productivity deals in recent years.

Rewarding

All of this has meant that Dublin Bus has become profitable.

But instead of rewarding the staff – the company is now being set up for privatisation.

For three years a Dublin Transport forum met to consider the future for the capital city.

It agreed that the core services would stay in the hands of Dublin Bus but that new services would be opened to private operators, after the Road Transport Act was amended.

But when Seamus Brennan became Minister this agreement was torn up – and the core services were opened to full scale privatisation.

Brennan has announced that from next January 25 percent of Dublin Bus will be franchised out.

Each year after that a further quarter of the services will be handed over to private operators.

The top company lining up to take over Dublin Bus is Metro line – a subsidiary of the Singapore based multi-national, Delgo.

Licence

Delgo has been buying up local operators such as CityLinks which runs a services from Galway to Dublin.

The original operators got a licence to run the services for a small cost. But they have sold off their franchise to Delgo and made a fortune.

Metroline already operates services in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

They are an anti-union firm that has attacked both workers' conditions and downgraded the actual bus service.

The stance taken by the NRBU against privatisation is to be commended by everyone who is worried about the effects of corporate globalisation.

We should get fully behind their strike to keep a publicly run bus service.

ADM WORKERS LOCKED OUT

EIGHTY SIPTU members at ADM in Cork remain locked out of their work since March 5th.

ADM is a citric acid production facility.

In February the workers were presented with a nine point restructuring plan by their management.

It involved changing shifts and moving workers to different parts of the factory to do work of higher value without extra payment.

They refused to negotiate but told workers to take it or leave it.

SIPTU conducted a ballot on the plan on March 3rd and it was overwhelmingly voted down.

Brush

But when they went to work on March 5th seeking to do their normal rosters, they were locked out.

Ever since then, the management have been trying to brush aside the union.

Morale remains high, though, and workers are determined to defend conditions and negotiating practices built up over thirty years.

■ ***A Solidarity Fund has not been set up for the locked out workers. Donations can be sent to***
ADM Lock Out Fund
Account Number: 13726732
Bank of Ireland South Mall
Cork
Sort Code 902768

Waterford marches for cancer care

THE campaign to win a radiotherapy unit for the south-east took another step forward with a 3,000 strong protest in Waterford organised by the Waterford Council of Trade Unions.

The WCTU have taken the lead in the radiotherapy campaign and this is the third major protest they have called on the issue, including a two hour work stoppage which was attended by more than 2,000 people.

The protest was infused with an increased sense of anger following an announcement that Michael Martin had cancelled a planned meeting with members of the city council.

For months Martin had refused to comment on the campaign, hiding behind the fact that the expert review group on cancer care he established had not yet reported its findings.

Despite this, there has been a series of leaks from the report, making it clear that the south-east is not going to get the life-saving treatment.

Following the success of the last WCTU protest, Martin was forced to admit that the government was not going to locate the unit in the region, whilst still maintaining he doesn't know the contents of the report.

This U-turn was as a direct result of the pressure being put on Fianna Fail by the trades' council campaign.

Many on the protest acknowledged the failure of nearly three years of secret meetings and negotiations behind closed doors and the importance of mobilising people on the streets to maintain that pressure.

Patrick, who was on the protest, told *Socialist Worker*: "Every member of Fianna Fail and the PD's in the area should resign from their parties in protest at this. The people who are making this decision have blood on their hands and blood on their conscience, and those who share their ideology are guilty by association".

"It's obvious why local politicians are so reticent about supporting protests and campaigns like this, because it reveals to everyone how unnecessary and obsolete they are. This is people marching together and fighting for a common goal, we don't need some politician to go off and do a deal on our behalf.

"We achieved more with one work stoppage and protest then they did with all their diplomacy and negotiations".

Teachers: Militancy is not crushed

DESPITE large votes in favour of Sustaining Progress in all three teacher unions, the Easter congresses demonstrated that high levels of discontent remain amongst members.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

The Teachers Union of Ireland (TUI) came within one vote of lodging a new pay claim.

An emergency motion to draw up a plan of action to resist cutbacks in the Institutes of Technology was passed unanimously.

In the ASTI members voted overwhelmingly against a return to the ICTU which the union left when embarking on its pay claim three years ago.

A review of the role and performance of Charlie Lennon, the union's general secretary, will take place over the coming months.

This is the culmination of growing tensions between many of those elected to positions on the unions representative bodies and the paid officials in head office.

Speech

The national treasurer of the union has also unearthed evidence of financial irregularities in her review of accounts.

Many of her concerns seem to centre around the issue of expenses.

This matter will be discussed further by the Central Executive and Standing committees.

In the INTO, parts of the Minister for Education's speech were met with slow hand claps and boos.

Members voted by a huge majority against linking pay increases to longer working hours and worsening conditions.

A plan of campaign was agreed on the issue of substandard schools, including strike action in schools affected.

Members of the Central Executive Committee spoke against a day's national strike action.

N.I Social Workers

SOCIAL workers across Northern Ireland conducted a successful 48 hour strike on 16/17th April.

The social workers struck for higher pay and in particular parity in pay with health professionals like nurses and speech therapists.

One of the strikers told *Socialist Worker*: "We sit in case conferences with Grade G nurses and with speech, physio or occupational therapists. We are usually the people with most qualifications, yet we earn £2,000 to £3,000 a year less than them."

"A rookie cop starts now on £19,000 a year after 6 months training. A social worker with five or six YEARS of study and training starts on just £16,000."

NIPSA put in the pay claim over a year ago but it was only when strike notice was served that management even started negotiating.

However, the two sides have been unable to come very much closer as the New Labour mantra of "modernisation" has haunted the negotiations. The reality is that social workers in the North as elsewhere have been subject to a huge level of modernisation in recent years as new legislation from the Children Order to the Disability Discrimination Act has impacted on their work.

But, as everyone from firefighters to teachers to postal and health service workers knows, to New Labour modernisation is spelt C-U-T-S and that's what they want from NIPSA also.

From April 23rd, the social workers have been working to rule with a strict overtime ban. Since the strike, all social workers received a letter offering an increase of one increment as a 'gesture of goodwill'.

This is being rejected out of hand as the union has already made it clear that it requires at least three extra increments to establish 'goodwill' on management's part.

Further strike action is planned for 21 and 22 May.

LINKS WITH IRAQ

AT THE TUI congress the order of business was changed at the request of delegates to allow Nuria Mustafa, an Iraqi citizen, to address congress.

Nuria described the devastating effect sanctions has had on education over the past twelve years.

She called on Irish teachers to send delegations to Iraq and to facilitate the twinning of Irish and Iraqi schools and colleges.

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